

2021 KICA BOARD CANDIDATE

Vincent Degenhart

Member Since 1986

512 Ruddy Turnstone

Single-Family Home

Full-Time Resident

Property Type: Single Family Home

Governor's & KI Club Member



Candidate Overview

My first visit to Kiawah was in the 70s while at MUSC. My parents retired to Kiawah and were some of the first permanent residents. My Dad, Bob, served on the KICA Board. Along with two of my eight siblings, we purchased our first home at Kiawah in 1986.

In 2004, my wife Denice and I bought 512 Ruddy Turnstone in West Beach. We attempted renovation, but secondary to structural problems razed that structure, and built our present home with significant input from Denice, an interior designer.

We spent many weekends and most vacations on the island. Our children learned how to ride bikes, and as teens both worked summers on Kiawah. Although never a great player, I love golf. As Ben Hogan said, "I know tomorrow will be a good day

as there will be golf in it." Denice is a good tennis player and enjoys team tennis. We both enjoy the waters around Kiawah. We are on a tidal creek, so are able to kayak, crab, and enjoy the ever-changing beauty of the Marsh and Kiawah River. We keep plenty of bikes on hand for family, and visitors.

After practicing medicine in South Carolina for over 40 years, I recently retired. Kiawah is now our permanent residence.

Community Involvement

Regarding golf, I was a founding member of Musgrove Mill Golf Club in Clinton, SC, serving on its Board, and chairman of its Membership Committee. We still belong to Forest Lake Club in Columbia, and are members of both the Kiawah Island Club and the Governor's Club.

We are avid gardeners. My wife more so than I. She annually decorated the Governor's mansion for Christmas with the Columbia Garden Club, and



continues to work with her interior and landscape design business here and in Columbia.

Prior to retirement, I was active with The South Carolina Medical Association and The American Society of Anesthesiologists, serving on their Board of Trustees and Board of Directors respectively, as well as President of the S.C. Society of Anesthesiologists. While on the board of the SCMA, I helped found the SCMA Task Force on Childhood Obesity. I am the physician volunteer for Angel Oak Elementary's Wellness program.

Professional Background

Planning a career in aeronautics, I attended the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado. When those goals changed to a career in medicine, I transferred to the University of South Carolina, graduating with honors in 1973. My brother Bill and I attended MUSC and were only the second set of brothers to graduate in the same class. After an internship in New Orleans, 3 years in the U.S. Public Health Service, and 2 years of general practice, I returned to MUSC, completing an Anesthesia Residency in 1982. I am board-certified in Anesthesiology, maintaining medical licenses in South Carolina and Georgia.

Throughout my career in Anesthesiology in Columbia and Camden, S.C., I sought and held many positions of leadership. I served on the Executive Committee of Providence Hospital in Columbia, the Foundation Board of Baptist Hospital in Columbia, President of the Columbia Medical Society, and on the Board of Trustees of Kershaw Health in Camden.

Board Service Statement

As a long-time visitor, part-time, and now full-time resident, I bring a somewhat unique perspective. Having renovated, built, and added additions to our homes at Kiawah, we are well familiar with the many entities. We also rented our home. From visitor

to vacation home to now full-time resident, we continue to love Kiawah.

My medical background, leadership positions, community service, and experience in the various types of homeownership should serve the board well. The island is growing, but will approach a build out stage in the not too distant future. Relationships with the various island entities will continue to be key: The Town of Kiawah, The Resort, Kiawah Partners, the Nature Conservancy, Charleston County, etc. For the most part, relationships are harmonious; however, there will be disagreements. Solving those disagreements, while preserving the beauty, and livability of Kiawah will be challenging.

COVID-19 presents a special set of challenges for Kiawah and the world. Hopefully this pandemic will end soon with vaccines coming available, better treatment options, and the natural progression of the disease. As a physician, I try to keep current. We should plan for the various scenarios that this virus or another, present to our residents and visitors.

Kiawah is a special blend of resort living, permanent and part-time residents, tourists, golf, tennis, the beach, etc. all rolled into one. We are in a wonderful and sensitive ecosystem. We must guard and protect the natural resources here on Kiawah, while at the same time not encumbering the livability and enjoyment of our families, residents, and visitors. It is a delicate balance that requires significant thought, science, planning, and common sense. My experience and ability to work with other KICA board members, homeowners, and staff, can continue to make this the best island in America.

I hope to carry on a legacy of service to Kiawah and KICA, as my Dad did 40 years ago. My parents instilled great values, and one of those was a great love for Kiawah.

View Vincent's video interview at [kica.us/vote](https://www.kica.us/vote).

